

HANDS in Autism Framework



Redding Elementary School is Making it Happen!



WE ARE a Pre-K to 5th grade school, with 600 students in the Seymour Community School Corporation. Our school has earned an "A" for the last three school years. Redding is a Title 1 school with above 65% of our students qualifying for Free/Reduced Lunch. Our school is the magnet school for several special education programs including Seymour Community School's Elementary Behavior program called B.E.S.T. (Behavior & Emotional Support & Transition).

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES have become active participants in the educational planning process. Families feel supported by the individualized programming available at Redding!



OUR TEACHERS have participated in almost 3 years of training and collaboration with HANDS in Autism. A demonstration classroom has been developed with the staff in B.E.S.T. Additionally, special education teachers throughout the district have grown professionally and applied the strategies in a variety of settings including Preschool, Life Skills Kdg-8th Grade, resource settings, and the general education classroom. Our occupational, physical, and speech therapists have also participated in the training! It is a TEAM effort!

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE For the past 3 years we have partnered with HANDS in Autism to establish a framework for our B.E.S.T. program to meet the district needs of students in Kdg – 5th Grade. We have created 3 classrooms with specific focus on applying the HANDS Philosophy including building the environment through: physical & visual structure, schedules, schedule mapping, choreography, and using data to drive decisions for student plans. Proactive behavioral strategies are also implemented throughout the entire school including: Positive, Labeled Praise, Behavior Momentum, Basic Prompting Sequence, Positive Self-Talk, and Individualized Positive Reinforcement Systems.

OUR STEPS

- In the fall of 2013, Dr. Naomi Swiezy of HANDS started a partnership with Seymour Community Schools.
- HANDS in Autism staff began collecting data in our B.E.S.T. classroom and provided professional development on a monthly basis to form a demonstration classroom with Mrs. Stacy Wiggam.
- Within 2 years, the single classroom has expanded into 3 classrooms lead by Mrs. Stacy Wiggam, Mrs. Karen Lenart, and Mr. Steffen Lewis.
- This semester Mrs. Alysha Johnson has also joined the team to service a student with specific needs alongside HANDS staff.
- The HANDS Philosophy and strategies are incorporated in all 3 B.E.S.T. settings.
- General and special education staff throughout Redding and the Seymour School District are able to observe and learn strategies from these classrooms.

IN OUR OWN WORDS "Using the HANDS Model has completely transformed my classroom. Instead of reacting to situations or behaviors, proactive strategies are used to facilitate success and positive outcomes for my students. They are able to become productive members of the classroom, school, and community. I cannot imagine teaching in my current classroom without the HANDS strategies." - Stacy Wiggam, B.E.S.T. Teacher

"Our HANDS approach utilizes data to develop strategies and interventions to achieve goals/outcomes for each individualized student." - Karen Lenart, B.E.S.T. Teacher

For more information about our school or corporation, email: purleed@scsc.k12.in.us or visit our website: redding.scsc.k12.in.us or Twitter @reddingschool